

BOB STUMP, ARIZONA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN R. KASICH, OHIO
HERBERT H. BATEMAN, VIRGINIA
JAMES V. HANSEN, UTAH
CURT WELDON, PENNSYLVANIA
JOEL HEFLEY, COLORADO
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
TILLIE K. FOWLER, FLORIDA
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
JAMES M. TALENT, MISSOURI
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
J.C. WATTS, JR., OKLAHOMA
MAC THORNBERY, TEXAS
JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, INDIANA
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, GEORGIA
VAN HILLEARY, TENNESSEE
JOE SCARBOROUGH, FLORIDA
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JIM RYUN, KANSAS
BOB RILEY, ALABAMA
JIM GIBBONS, NEVADA
MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBIN HAYES, NORTH CAROLINA
STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL, CALIFORNIA
DON SHERWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

FLOYD D. SPENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

May 17, 2000

KE SKELTON, MISSOURI
NORMAN SISISKY, VIRGINIA
JOHN M. SPATT, JR., SOUTH CARO.
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
OWEN PICKETT, VIRGINIA
LANE EVANS, ILLINOIS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
MARTIN T. MEENAN, MASSACHUSETT
ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD, GUAM
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, ILLINOIS
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
THOMAS H. ALLEN, MAINE
VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
JIM TURNER, TEXAS
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
JAMES H. MALONEY, CONNECTICUT
MIKE MCINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ, TEXAS
CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY, GEORGIA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA
MIKE THOMPSON, CALIFORNIA
JOHN B. LARSON, CONNECTICUT

ANDREW K. ELLIS, STAFF DIRECTOR

SUSTAIN AMERICA'S ALL-VOLUNTEER MILITARY FORCE REFORM MILITARY HEALTH CARE

VOTE "YES" ON H.R. 4205, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Dear Colleague:

H.R. 4205 meets two major national security challenges head on.

First, it reforms the military health care system so that it can promote -- not detract from -- readiness, recruiting and retention. H.R. 4205 breaks down numerous barriers to access for active and retired military people and their families, restores access to a nationwide prescription drug benefit for all 1.4 million military retirees over age 65, sets the stage for providing Medicare-eligible military retirees a permanent health care program in fiscal year 2004, adds more than \$280 million to the Defense Health Program to fund new benefits, and promotes reforms that will save more than \$500 million over five years.

Second, H.R. 4205 aggressively attacks the major challenge of sustaining the viability of America's all-volunteer military forces. Therefore, it contains numerous recommendations for improved pay, bonuses and benefits that not only continue the broad-based approach that Congress endorsed last year to improve the overall economic standing of military people and their families, but also targets certain specific problems like recruiting and retention and military people on food stamps.

Thus, H.R. 4205 contains a strong, comprehensive set of initiatives that fix some of the toughest problems confronting our military today.

I urge you to vote "YES" on H.R. 4205.



Steve Buyer
Chairman
Military Personnel Subcommittee